

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for disrupting survival signaling from a bone marrow microenvironment to single breast cancer cells or breast cancer cell micrometastases in a mammal with breast cancer, said method comprising administering to said mammal with breast cancer an agent effective in blocking the interaction of an integrin with an extracellular matrix protein of the bone marrow microenvironment or that downregulates expression of said integrin, wherein the integrin is alpha 5 beta 1 and the extracellular matrix protein is fibronectin, and wherein the method results in sensitizing single breast cancer cells or breast cancer cell micrometastases to chemotherapy, biological therapies or radiation therapy of primary tumors, cancer metastases or micrometastases in said a mammal with breast cancer.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibody specific for an integrin, a blocking peptide, and a modified peptide effective to disrupt interaction of the integrin with the extracellular matrix.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises blocking survival signaling initiated by ligation of alpha 5 beta 1 integrins by microenvironment proteins.

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting cellular proliferation or inducing cell death or cellular differentiation of single breast cancer cells or breast cancer cell micrometastases in a mammal with breast cancer or for treating a single breast cancer cell or breast cancer micrometastases in a mammal with breast cancer comprising administering to the mammal with breast cancer an agent capable of downregulating expression of an integrin or blocking the binding of an integrin to an extracellular matrix protein of the bone marrow microenvironment, wherein the integrin is alpha 5 beta 1 and the extracellular matrix protein is fibronectin, and wherein the method results in inhibiting cellular proliferation or inducing cell death or cellular differentiation of the single breast cancer cell or breast cancer cell micrometastases or in treating the single breast cancer cell or breast cancer cell micrometastases in the mammal with breast cancer.

13. (canceled).

14-46. (canceled).

47. (canceled).

48. (canceled)

49. (canceled).

50. (canceled).

51. (canceled).

52. (canceled).

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, comprising administering an antibody effective to block integrin alpha 5 beta 1 or a peptide effective to block fibronectin or a modified peptide effective to block fibronectin, or any combinations thereof, wherein the antibody or peptide is administered prior to or concurrent with a chemotherapeutic agent or radiation therapy.

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the method results in sensitizing to, or potentiating chemotherapy or radiation therapy in mammals undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

55. (canceled).

56. (canceled).

57. (canceled).

58. (canceled).

59. (canceled).

60. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal with breast cancer is a human.

61. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal with breast cancer is a human.